

Prayer Letter

March 2009

Greetings from the Republic of Kosova – which will celebrate it's first anniversary of independence on 17 February. I was just coming to the end of my first short-term placement in Kosova this time last year. It's good to look back and know that the big decisions about leaving work and moving house have been made and taken and I can enjoy getting to grips with the more nitty-gritty aspects of living and working here – things like opening bank accounts, paying bills, learning to drive, etc. I thought I'd give you a taste of life here by sharing my week with you. Let me start with Monday since it's my most flexible day – every other day I have either a language lesson, school or home visit, so now, that Monday morning feeling is great!

Monday 9 February

Went to the office of Association of International Missionaries (AIM) to photocopy bank cards, passport, medical insurance and the language book I'm working on. Also picked up mail from there which is always nice to receive. Did some language study at home then went out to buy bulbs – the weather has been quite spring-like recently. The house I'm moving to next week has a balcony so I'm hopeful it will have some flowers too! Did some preparation for Bible study in the evening.



Tuesday 10 February

Went to a prayer meeting in the AIM office at 9.00am. Good opportunity to meet people. Met Justine, the other BMS worker here who has been the administrator in the AIM office for the last five years and is returning to the UK for home assignment next week. Went to her house where I'll be moving next week. Had a lesson on Land Rover maintenance (I'll be using her vehicle too!), plant care, accounts, how an inverter works (battery power supply which powers small voltage electrical appliances –



no heaters) and how to get on with the landlord! Came back home and had a language lesson – felt good today – I actually understood what she was saying! Made cakes (which is so much easier when you've a good power supply) then got lost walking to a friend's house for a get-together for Justine. It was a good language lesson though – I asked in two shops for directions – the thing about living in Prishtina though, is that both shop keepers replied in English! That doesn't happen in Vushtrri!

Wednesday 11 February

Normally I'd be doing home visits today but, as often happens here, plans change! Left at 7.45am to travel to Peje with Justine as the Land Rover needed some attention and she knows a



Scottish mechanic there! Stopped en route to visit a lady who oversees a small church in a room above her house. We bought some handicrafts that she had made – she only had one week's supply of wood left so was grateful for the income. Had a great afternoon eating Scotch broth and talking in my best Scottish accent with the mechanic and his wife. I drove back from Peje which was a little nerve wracking but fun too – until it got dark. There is no lighting on the roads so trying to avoid pedestrians walking on the road, oncoming vehicles and big holes in the road

takes a lot of concentration! Did more language study at night – it seems to help me unwind strangely enough as I have to concentrate so hard on it I don't worry about anything else!

Thursday 12 February

Did an hour of language study before going to the bank this morning and to a shop to buy some super glue. Learned the word for glue – “lepak” – seemingly they call it “super lepak”. Met Justine and went with her to sort out some boxes of aid. Found some good toys I can use on home visits! Walked home through the crowds – it was changeover time in the high school so the street was packed – for a language lesson. Went shopping afterwards then managed to wish my sister a happy birthday on Skype – I love Skype! Watched Chariots of Fire at night – what an inspirational film! Did some more language study and prepared for school tomorrow.

Friday 13 February

Got the bus at 8.30am for Vushtrri. Takes about 40 minutes. Went to the school, to the special class. Today we cut heart shapes out of a cake and iced them with pink icing. Then we made Valentine's Day cards. It was a bit wild today - there was only one teacher so both classes were there at the same time. Some of the boys are really hard on the other pupils – it can be difficult to watch. Walked round to Suzy and Ernie's, the missionary family I work with there and enjoyed a very welcome cup of coffee. Then Suzy and I went on a home visit to a family who have two children with severe disabilities. When I'd been there the previous week, the mum had been telling me that her husband had been suffering from pains in his chest. He's only 33 but he had a heart attack three years ago and his sister died a few months ago, aged 42, leaving four children. I told Suzy about it and she came with me today to see if there is any way we could help this family – medical treatment would need to take place outside Kosova. Bible study postponed tonight – it's hard finding a time that suits everyone! Chatted online with one of the special needs teachers I work with here – she told me that the other teacher wasn't there today because her friend had had a brain haemorrhage and is seriously ill in hospital. Also got a text message from my language teacher to say she couldn't give me lessons this weekend as her cousin had been killed in a road traffic accident.

Saturday 14 February

Finished reading 1 John in Albanian this morning – I chose it because the Apostle John tends to write in simple short sentences! Did some more language study then went out shopping with my flat mate – went to the butcher's for the first time... and got what I wanted! Invited friends for dinner so prepared in the afternoon then went out shopping for resources for work. I heard today that the girl with the brain haemorrhage is making a good recovery – praise God!

Sunday 15 February

Went to church this morning and then out for lunch with friends and then walked home – it was snowing slightly. Watched the Joni Erickson story in Albanian on TV. And now... I'm writing you a letter! I'm very grateful to be here and to see how faithfully God continues to answer our prayers.

Pray for:

- ◆ The dad of the children I work with who needs heart surgery
- ◆ The lady who oversees the small church I visited this week, and her family
- ◆ A full recovery for the girl who had the brain haemorrhage
- ◆ For me – for daily progress in language development, safety in travel and good strong relationships with the people here.

Best wishes to you all,

Eileen

BMS World Mission supports 350 personnel working in 34 countries of the world. Together they are involved mainly in church planting, development, disaster relief, education, health and media and advocacy. If you would like to support BMS you can make a one-off donation, or you can become a 24:7 Partner for as little as £2 per month. Visit www.bmsworldmission.org or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet, or 01235 517641 for our donation hotline.